

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of reducing the number of deaths caused by acute myocardial infarction ~~and for improving the short and long term prognosis in the patients treated with it,~~ comprising intravenously administering L-carnitine or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts within the first ~~few~~ four hours of onset of the symptoms of acute myocardial infarction at an initial dose of 9 grams a day for 5 days, after which the treatment is continued as a dose of 4 grams a day by mouth.

2.-4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) The use according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in which the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-carnitine is selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, orotate, aspartate, acid aspartate, acid citrate, magnesium citrate, phosphate, acid phosphate, fumarate and acid fumarate, magnesium fumarate, lactate, maleate and acid maleate, oxalate, acid oxalate, pamoate, acid pamoate, sulphate, acid sulphate, glucose phosphate, tartrate and acid tartrate, glycerophosphate, mucate, magnesium tartrate, 2-amino-ethane sulphonate, magnesium 2-amino-ethane sulphonate, methane sulphonate, choline tartrate, trichloroacetate, and trifluoroacetate.

6.-9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the L-carnitine for oral administration is in the form of a tablet, capsule, powder, granule, syrup, elixir, suspension or solution.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the L-carnitine for intravenous administration is in the form of a suspension or a solution in a suitable vehicle.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, in which the vehicle is selected from the group consisting of distilled water, a saline solution and a glucose solution.

13.-17. (canceled).